

# CONNECTICUT PACKAGE STORES ASSOCIATION



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Good afternoon Senator Doyle, Representative Baram, Senator Witkos, Representative Carter and members of the General Law Committee. The Connecticut Package Stores Association (CPSA) represents Connecticut off-premise package store retailers. We work to promote and protect their integral role as one of the three tiers of the alcohol beverage industry in CT.

We are submitting this testimony on the following bills:

**H.B. No. 5430 (RAISED) AN ACT PERMITTING RESTAURANT AND CAFE PERMIT HOLDERS TO SELL GROWLERS OF BEER AT RETAIL.**

We oppose this bill although we usually find common ground with the restaurant association on most issues. Package stores have off-premise permits in the state allowing for the sale of sealed containers but not for the on-premise consumption of those products outside of tasting small samples. On-premise permits, which the restaurants have, allow for on premise consumption of product. The delineation between these two permits is very clear. We believe this bill allows for off-premise sales from restaurants and we cannot support this expansion into retail sales.

**H.B. No. 5429 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CRAFT DISTILLER PERMIT.**

This bill as currently written does not maintain the integrity of the minimum pricing system in CT law. We can only support a small amount of sales of a limited size after a tour of a facility, as long as that product cannot be sold for less than the minimum price and all other current laws relating to alcohol beverage sales are followed. Package stores and small brand manufacturers in CT are good partners in the industry as our stores are an integral part in how these products are marketed and sold in CT. The integrity of the system is at stake and small craft manufacturers have to abide by the same rules of pricing as package stores when selling at retail.

**H.B. No. 5428 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A FLOOR STOCK ALLOWANCE FOR BEER**

We oppose this bill because there is no guarantee that the bill will lead to cheaper prices and, we believe quantity discounting will have to accompany such a change. Quantity discounting is currently not permitted in CT for good reason because of the damage it will do to product selection.

Thank you for allowing us to submit this testimony and for considering our concerns.